# new kscp logo (screen res)Press Release Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership

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 **Conserving, enhancing and promoting the Stour Valley**

**Helping Canterbury’s River**

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership have been busy in the river in recent weeks. Volunteers and the contractor – I.G.Pilcher, have been working together to improve wildlife habitat.

Annie Thurgarland Watercourse Officer at KSCP says ‘ We have implemented a number of projects, which includes from Sainsbury’s riverside to St Radigunds where volunteers armed with sledge hammers put stakes into the river bed to hold faggots (bundles of sticks) in place and then our contractor used a digger to put river bed silt behind these faggots to protect the river bank from erosion.

At Kingsmead Field a digger was used to create a lower bankside. This lower bankside and narrower river channel will help the river stay deep enough for fish when water is in short supply. It will provide more riverside plants. These plants will provide shelter and food for lots of different wildlife.

A deeper channel was created along the riverbed beside the Causeway. This low flow channel will mean fish can continue to use this stretch of river when water levels are very low. The vegetated island here was extended creating a safe haven for wildlife.

In the river alongside North Lane, opposite Miller’s Field, we installed a series of planters in the river. These will be planted up with water plants in the spring time.

Canterbury’s river – The River Great Stour - is very important for people and wildlife. Like most of the UK’s rivers, it is being damaged by pollution, climate change and demand for water supplies.

Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership have worked with Friends of Canterbury Riverside, Friends of Kingsmead Field, Canterbury City Council and the Environment Agency to implement the works.

The work in Canterbury will help protect the banksides when water levels are high. It will give the fish and other wildlife that uses the river extra places to find food and stay safe when water levels are low.’

This is one of a number of projects that Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership are doing to help the River Great Stour, funded and helped by the Environment Agency.

For further information please contact us by email - kentishstour@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 410900

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The KSCP are one of nine countryside management partnerships in Kent playing a vital role in the conservation and enhancement of the Kent countryside and coast. [www.kentcountryside.org.uk](http://www.kentcountryside.org.uk/)

Attachments

Photo of volunteers – Peter Atherall and Mansell John putting in stakes and faggots

Photo of a digger in the river at Kingsmead

Photo of a digger on the bank at Kingsmead.